

What is claimed is:

1. A pyrotechnic initiator, comprising:

a) an initiator subassembly including a can loaded with a pyrotechnic charge, and a header assembly having a connector end; and,

b) a molded, integral, unitary, electrically-nonconductive body connected to and surrounding substantially all of said initiator subassembly except for an exposed portion of said connector end.

2. The initiator of claim 1, wherein said connector end of said header assembly comprises two electrode pins.

3. The initiator of claim 2, wherein said electrode pins project outwardly from said body.

4. The initiator of claim 3, wherein one of said two electrode pins is a ground pin and the other is a coaxial, isolated electrode pin.

5. The initiator of claim 4, wherein said body and said electrode pins together form a standard automotive airbag initiator connector configuration.

6. The initiator of claim 1, wherein said can has an upper region having a first diameter, a lower region having a second diameter that is larger than said first diameter, and a flared middle region joining said upper and lower regions.

7. The initiator of claim 1, wherein said body is made of nylon.

8. A method for making a pyrotechnic initiator having an overmolded body, comprising the steps of:

a) providing an initiator subassembly including a can loaded with a pyrotechnic charge, and a header assembly having a connector end; and,

b) molding an integral, unitary, electrically-nonconductive body around said subassembly, such that said body is connected to and surrounds substantially all of said initiator subassembly except for an exposed portion of said connector end.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said step of providing includes providing an initiator subassembly wherein said connector end of said header assembly comprises two electrode pins.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said step of providing includes providing an initiator subassembly that includes a ground pin and a coaxial, isolated electrode pin.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said step of molding includes molding said body such that an exposed portion of each of said electrode pins projects outwardly from said body.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein said step of molding includes injecting molten material into a mold in which said initiator subassembly is placed.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said step of molding includes injecting molten material into said mold under high pressure.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein said step of providing includes providing an initiator subassembly having an upper region.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said step of molding includes injecting said molten material at said upper region of said initiator subassembly, and allowing said molten material to flow downwardly along said subassembly.

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16. The method of claim 15, wherein said step of molding includes injecting said molten material into said mold under high pressure.

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17. The method of claim 15, wherein said step of providing includes providing an initiator subassembly wherein said can has an upper region having a first diameter, a lower region having a second diameter that is larger than said first diameter, and a flared middle region joining said upper and lower regions of said can.

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18. The method of claim 17, wherein said step of providing includes providing an initiator subassembly that includes a ground pin and a coaxial, isolated electrode pin.

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19. The method of claim 8, wherein said step of molding includes injecting molten nylon.

20 20. The method of claim 13, wherein said step of providing includes providing an initiator subassembly wherein said can is tightly and substantially completely loaded with said pyrotechnic charge.

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